REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 28-29 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-2, 5-6, 9-11, and 28-29 are amended and claims 13-27 and 30-31 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 15 and 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. These claims have been canceled, and therefore the rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-5, 9-11, 13, 17-18, and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Meany et al. (hereinafter "Meany"), U.S. Patent No. 5,850,482. Claims 13, 17-18, and 21-23 are canceled and thus the rejection is moot with respect to these claims. The rejection is respectfully traversed insofar as it applies to the remaining claims.

Meany discloses an error resilient method and apparatus for entropy coding. As shown, in Figures 5A-5B, Meany discloses quantizing histogram bin values according to frequency of occurrence. However, the bin values are uniformly quantized except in a region surrounding zero. See column 12, lines 64-67. That is, the quantization interval is enlarged, or doubled centering around zero. In contrast, the present application teaches, referring, for example, to the embodiment shown in Figure 3, uniformly quantizing bin values in a second region with a range

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from .0001 to .0999. However, if a first region with bin values in a range of 0 to .001 and a third region with bin values in a range from .1 to 1.0 are considered, the bin values are non-uniformly quantized. Further, referring to another example, discussed at page 9 of the present application, the bin value range is divided into six regions with a different number of quantization levels allocated to each region. The bin values are uniformly quantized within each region; however, they are non-uniformly quantized with respect to the other regions.

Thus, with respect to independent claim 1, Meany does not disclose or suggest a method wherein the range of the histogram bin values is non-uniformly quantized, and wherein the range of the histogram bin values is separated into at least three regions, at least one of the regions has sub-regions, and wherein an interval of each of the sub-regions is uniform within the at least one region but non-uniform with respect to each of the other regions.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-5 and 9-11 are allowable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejected claims 6, 12, 16, 24-26, and 29-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meany. Claims 16, 24-26, and 30-31 are canceled and therefore the rejection is moot with respect to these claims. The rejection is respectfully traversed insofar as it applies to the remaining claims.

Dependent claims 6 and 12 are allowable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

Independent claim 29 recites, *inter alia*, that within at least one of the three or more regions the range of each of the quantization levels is uniform but non-uniform with respect to the quantization levels of each of the other regions. As discussed above, Meany does not disclose or suggest such features. Further, Meany does not disclose or suggest the claimed combination of independent claim 29. Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 29 over Meany should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 7-8, 14-15, 19-20, and 27-28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meany in view of Wu, U.S. Patent No. 6,529,202. Claims 14-15, 19-20, and 27 are canceled and therefore the rejection is moot with respect to these claims. The rejection is respectfully traversed insofar as it applies to the remaining claims.

Dependent claims 7-8 are allowable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features. Wu fails to overcome the deficiencies of Meany, as it is merely cited to disclose a "color" histogram.

Independent claim 28 recites, *inter alia*, that the range of normalized histogram bin value is separated into at least three regions, wherein at least one of each of the regions has sub-regions, and wherein the range of the sub-regions is uniform within the at least one region but non-uniform with respect to each of the other regions. As discussed above, Meany does not disclose or suggest such features. Further, Meany fails to disclose or suggest the claimed combination of independent claim 28. Further, as set forth above, Wu is merely cited to disclose
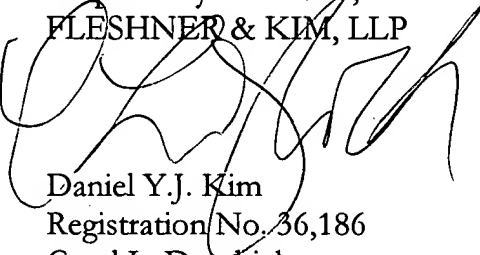
a "color" histogram. Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 28 over the combination

of Meany and Wu should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the

application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes

would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact

the undersigned attorney, **Carol L. Druzbick**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is

hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and

please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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